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ant in the admiralty court, in suits of the crown, for nearly half a million of dollars as penalties alleged to have been incurred for violations of the statute book. Sabine says: "If, therefore, the war of the Revolution had its origin in a long course of aggression upon the rights of the North, its successful issue was due in some measure to the more meritorious, because more disinterested exertions of the South." Sabine gives the names of eight hundred and thirty-six Tories of Massachusetts, and there are biographies of four hundred and ninety-five of the leading citizens in every walk of life. The wealth, the intelligence, the social and official positions, were all held by the Tories. Of the four hundred and ninety-five men whose biographies are given, one hundred and forty were graduates of Harvard, and the remaining three hundred and fifty-five were just as conspicuous and distinguished. He gives sketches of fifty-nine Virginians, and in his fragments at the end of his two volumes there is a mere mention of fifty-six more, making one hundred and fifteen in all. But of this number very few held any official position. Many of them were Scotch merchants and recent immigrants, Virginians in name only. The most prominent office-holders who adhered to the crown were John Randolph, the attorney-general of the colony, educated, it is believed, at William and Mary, and buried in the college chapel, Richard Corbin and Ralph Wormeley, Jr., of the council, who were educated in England. The only two mentioned by Sabine as students of William and Mary who lent aid to the English cause were Christopher and Robert Robinson, who left the college during the Revolution and ran off to the British. A list of the Virginia loyalists will be given in some future magazine.

LETTER OF RALPH WORMELEY, JR., OF ROSEGILL.¹

August 8, 1783.

HON. CHAS. JAMES FOX, *London* :

Sir,—I do not address this letter to you in the vain hope that it will be the means of introducing me to your correspondence, and that a man of your high engagements can withdraw yourself from them to a familiarity with me. It is as Secretary of State that I write to you, and expect to receive at your hands and through your representatives that justice I may rightly claim.

The subject is the detention of my negroes at New York. I went to the Northward this summer with the intention of proceeding to New York and making personal application to the commander-in-chief for them, but was taken ill on the road, and heard from undoubted official authority in Philadelphia that none were restored to their owners. This is considered generally in America an infraction of the treaty, and whether Sir Guy Carleton, who is a man of business and of a clear reputation, has acted in this manner

¹ Copied from the letter book of Ralph Wormeley, Jr., by Dr. A. G. Grinnan.

from orders from the late ministry or whether he have (*sic*) acted on his own confidence, I cannot venture to assure you.

No man could have fallen upon a measure more impolitic, nor one more injurious to the interest of merchants in Great Britain to whom Americans may be indebted. Congress, before they had certain accounts of this step of Sir Guy Carleton, was disposed to recommend—as one of that body (a man of veracity) informed me—to the different Legislatures the strictest observance of the treaty. Our Assembly was disposed to pay the debt due to British merchants; their opinion may be altered on this point or happily adjusted by the definitive treaty, which is said to have arrived, though not yet published. Doubts may be entertained what may be the conclusion of the Assembly in their next meeting.

Sir Guy Carleton has evidently put himself in the wrong in a matter of no national importance, and, therefore, has committed the very error that reason and policy must condemn. It certainly affords argument to those who think that British debts should not be paid, for though there are many honorable gentlemen in the country who may owe money and scorn to avail themselves of any substitute, yet there may be those who would embrace a less specious one thus so afforded to them to excuse themselves from such an irksome or onerous impost.

As his Excellency has conducted himself as I have related to you, it would have been nugatory to me to have gone to New York in search of my property, even had I been well. I am, therefore, obliged, sir, in right to myself, to apply to you. The commander-in-chief has said that £50 would be allowed by government for every negro. I have enclosed a list of those belonging to my father and myself, with the value of them. To this we have sworn. I have confidence to hope that government will allow me the same as if I had gone to New York and gotten a certificate from Sir Guy Carleton that such number was not returned to me.

Capt. John Wormeley, my brother, who has served for many years in the British army during the war, could not get one when he left New York. Having mentioned him, permit me to say that nothing has been more severe than our government on men in his predicament, and nothing more base and dishonorable than yours during the last administration towards these unfortunate and loyal men. He is ordered to leave Virginia (see the proclamation), and remains in it at his peril. We hope from the definitive treaty that he may be permitted to remain here. If he should not be, he will be

abandoned to all that misery and want which many loyalists experience, unless you, in your noble generosity and compassion to such a character, should render him that assistance and relief that his merit challenges.

Mr. Welch, our mercantile correspondent before the war, and Mr. James Wormeley, a brother of mine, who has only a pitiful position of a temporary kind from government, and who is excluded by proclamation from returning to Virginia, will apply to you for us and receive the money which may be paid for the negroes.

I trust you will lay the case before the Lords of the Treasury. By your interference, and from the justness of the case, I flatter myself that we may have some, though inadequate, satisfaction for our hopes.

This letter Mr. Thos. Corbin will have the honor of delivering to your excellency and papers relative to me. Suffer me to mention this gentleman particularly to you. He has been in Britain the last five years, and in the army. He returned hither in consequence of peace, and is obliged immediately to leave the country. He is the son of the Hon. Richard Corbin, who was one of the King's Council and his Majesty's Receiver-General of quit rents; as faithful a servant as the crown ever had, he is, or rather was, under the former government a man of the first consequence in the country; a man of fortune, affluence and family.

I shall detain you no longer than while I refer you for my character (you may have forgotten me) to these respectable gentlemen: Gen. Tryon, Lord Mulgrove, Sir Robert Eden and Col. George Damer. They know it so well as to know and say that no paper I have attested is false. I have the honor, with every consideration of respect and esteem, to be

Your excellency's most obdt. and most obliged humble servant.

Signed, RALPH WORMELEY, JR.

To Hon. Charles James Fox, Secretary of State, London.

BERKELEY MANUSCRIPTS.

(Continued from January Number, 1898.)

LEWIS BURWELL'S BOND TO EDMUND BERKELEY.

[A true copy of a document in possession (1897) of Major Wm. N. Berkeley, of Charlottesville, Va., endorsed "father Burwell's obligat. to be ans^{ble} for land when sold." FRANCIS L. BERKELEY. October 18, 1897.]